

C. ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS FOR SFA

Purpose: The purpose of the State Family Assistance Program (SFA) is to provide assistance to legal immigrant families who are ineligible to receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits because of the restrictions imposed under federal welfare reform. This section describes which immigrants can receive SFA benefits.

WAC 388-424-0015 Citizenship and alien status--Eligibility requirements for the state family assistance program.

To receive SFA benefits, you must be:

- (1) A qualified alien who is not eligible for TANF benefits because of the five-year period of ineligibility described in WAC 388-424-0010(2); or
- (2) An alien who is permanently residing in the U.S. under color of law (PRUCOL) as defined in WAC 388-424-0005(4).

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

1. Effective April 1, 2000, aliens no longer have to meet the 12-month Washington residency requirement to receive SFA benefits.
2. Aliens who enter the U.S. on or after August 22, 1996, and are otherwise eligible, can receive SFA no matter how long they have been living in Washington State. Please refer WAC 388-424-0010 for aliens who entered the U.S. before August 22, 1996.
3. North American Indians born in Canada who are allowed to cross the U.S. / Canadian border freely under Section 289 of the INA can receive SFA benefits.

WORKER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Related WAC's:
 - a. See WAC-388-450-0116 for the treatment of the income of household members who are ineligible to receive SFA due to their alien status.

- b. See WAC 388-450-0155 and 388-470-0060 for the treatment of income and resources of a sponsored alien's sponsor.
- 2. Update the client's alien status in ACES when it is changed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.